

# Oneonta Daily Star

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# EXPLOSION ROCKS NEW YORK; 30 KILLED, OVER 200 INJURED

## WARNING LETTER WAS RECEIVED

Note Sent to French Commission Told of Approaching Tragedy, But  
Officials Thought It a Joke—Five Members of Morgan Firm Escape Death in Explosion

New York, Sept. 16.—Five members of the Morgan firm were in the building at the time of today's accident. Thomas W. Lamont, Dwight W. Morrow, Eliot C. Bacon and George Whitney, were in conference on the second floor of the Broad street side of the Morgan building. They were shaken up by the force of the explosion, but all escaped without injuries. J. Spencer Morgan, son of J. P. Morgan, head of the firm, who is now abroad, was at his desk on the lower floor when the explosion occurred. It shattered the glass partition of his office, showering him with fragments. He received slight cuts on the hands and arms.

### Jarred by Concussion.

The explosion threw the conference upstairs into disorder," Mr. Lamont said. "We were jarred by the concussion and rather excitedly ran down to the main floor, where the most confusion prevailed. There were about fifty employees who were more or less injured, and those clerks who miraculously escaped injury from falling debris were courageously devoting their attention to assisting those who were less fortunate.

### No Permits for Explosives.

An investigation by representatives of the fire commissioner, however, showed that no permits had been issued today for the transportation of explosives in the area surrounding Broad and Wall streets. Shipments of explosives were neither received nor expected during the day at any other building under construction in the immediate vicinity, according to the fire commissioner, who said a canvass had been made of all construction work in the neighborhood.

Thirty detectives from the West 30th street station, all picked men, were sent out tonight to maintain a strict surveillance over the Morgan home at 36th and 37th streets, on Madison avenue. The detectives stationed themselves in doorways, on housesteps and at other points of vantage in the vicinity of the home. They had orders to stop every person and automobile that passed which gave them the slightest reason for suspicion.

## RESERVATIONS NOT UNDESIRABLE—COX

Democratic Nominee Ready to  
Amend League Provided Original  
Provisions Not Nullified

The writer suggested that Lieutenant Arnaud advise Minister Casenave to have the offices of the commission closed and unoccupied at 2 o'clock, so that the lives of the office staff might be spared. The letter also mentioned "between 2 and 4 o'clock daylight time" as the probable hour for the catastrophe.

Today, after the explosion, these bits of paper were taken from the basket, pasted together, and turned over to the police. The letter, which was addressed to Lieutenant Arnaud, who is attached to the commission, began with the word: "Greetings." The writer said he thought he was rendering a service to the French commission by advising Morris Casenave, minister plenipotentiary, and his assistants, of the fact that a catastrophe would occur in Wall street about 2:30 o'clock. No date was mentioned.

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It was intimated in the letter that some people had grievances and wanted to take revenge." Lieutenant Arnaud read the letter several times, feeling assured that it had been written by an alarmist and should not be taken seriously, he tore it up and threw it into a wastebasket. He gave no further thought to the letter until after the explosion today, when he rushed into the office, emptied the contents of the wastepaper basket in a heap on his desk, sorted the bits of the letter, pieced them together, and turned them over to the police.

Efforts to learn whether the letter bore a signature proved futile.

Soon after the letter had been handed to the police, it was learned that the letter had been sent to an address in West 22nd street to seek a man formerly in the employ of the French commission. It was said that he had left the service of the French government on September 1, 1919.

The writer of the letter, the police believe, was familiar with all plans for the explosion and would be able to point out the responsible parties.

### Report Seeing Wagon.

According to the police theory that the accident was caused by the explosion of an internal machine, several eyewitnesses reported that a wagon bearing the sign "Explosives" was seen near the Morgan building a few moments before the blast occurred. This led to the theory, which was still held by members of the Morgan firm to-night, that the explosion was caused by a collision between the explosive wagon and another vehicle.

"From what we have learned, I am inclined to believe that the explosion was due merely to an accident," Thomas W. Lamont, of the Morgan firm, declared to-night. "There are no reasons that we can find that would lead to a premeditated bombing. I can see nothing to be gained by such a act. Circumstances of the occurrence surely do not point to any attempt to wreck the Morgan offices."

"If anybody really plotted destruc-

## INFERNAL MACHINE BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED CATASTROPHE

Property Damage Estimated at One Million Dollars Results  
From Terrific Blast in New York's Financial Section

## THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN TERROR

Explosion Comes at Noon Hour as Clerks Pour Out of Wall  
Street Banking Houses—Officials of J. P. Morgan and  
Company in Conference at Time, Escape Injury—  
Burns Scouts Theory Blast Was Accidental

New York, Sept. 16.—A mysterious explosion this noon in Wall street, near Broad, believed by trained department of justice and police investigators to have been caused by an infernal machine, rocked the heart of New York's financial district, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

Thomas W. Lamont, of the J. P. Morgan firm, expressed the belief, however, that the explosion was purely an accident, caused by a collision between an explosive-laden wagon and another vehicle. The firm had received no threats of any kind, he said, and there was no real reason for the planting of a bomb outside the firm's offices.

Thirty persons were killed, more than 200 were injured, the banking house of J. P. Morgan and Company, the sub-treasury, and the Assay office, were partially wrecked, and property damage estimated in excess of one million dollars was caused by the blast.

It was a crash out of a blue sky—an unexpected death-dealing bolt which in a twinkling turned into a shambles the busiest corner of America's financial center and sent scurrying to places of shelter hundreds of wounded, dumb-stricken, white-faced men and women, fleeing from an unknown danger.

A reporter for The Associated Press, who was an eyewitness of today's explosion, thus described the scene:

"I was just turning into Wall street from Broadway, when I first felt, rather than heard, the explosion. A concussion of air similar to that experienced by a passenger on the subway when a train dashes into one of the under-water tubes, was felt. The force was sufficient to all but throw me off my balance. Instantly following the concussion came a sharp, resounding crash, which shook to their very foundations the monster buildings facing either side of Wall street. With the roar of the blast came the rattle of falling glass, and from the junction of Wall, Nassau and Broad streets—a block distant— screams of injured men and women.

"I dodged into a convenient doorway to escape falling glass, and to reach a telephone and call the office. Looking down Wall street later, I could see arising from the vicinity of the sub-treasury building and the J. P. Morgan and Company bank, a mushroom-shaped cloud of yellowish-green smoke, which mounted to the height of more than 100 feet, the smoke being licked by darting tongues of flame.

"I reached the scene a few moments after the explosion took place. The smoke had partially cleared from the street, but from the Morgan building there was belching forth through the broken windows clouds of dust and white vapor. In the street an overturned automobile was blazing fiercely, and nearby, close to the body of a dead horse, was another fire, evidently among a pile of wreckage.

**Street Strews With Bodies.**  
"Almost in front of the steps leading up to the Morgan bank, was the mutilated body of a man. Other bodies, most of them slain in death, lay nearby. As I gazed horror-stricken at the sight, one of these forms, half naked and seared with burns, started to rise. It struggled, then toppled, and fell lifeless into the gutter.

"On the opposite side of the street were other forms. One of them was that of a young woman—her clothing torn and burned away. It was moving—not in an effort to rise, but in the agony of death. I started towards her—but as I did, it became still. Clenching down, I saw the garment was discolored with blood. In plain sight, within a radius of 30 to 50 feet, were nine lifeless forms.

"The body of the dead horse in the middle of the street showed plain evidence of having been in very close proximity to the center of the blast. The nose of the explosion, which was It was literally torn to pieces.

"The windows of the Morgan building were blown out, and through the openings could be seen the smoke-blackened interior of what but a few moments previous had been one of the handsomest banking rooms in the city. The entrance to the newly-completed white exterior of the sub-treasury annex was battered and torn

as if having been subjected to a bomb."

Timothy Healey, a delegate of the American Federation of Labor, called a band of machine gun fire, the which were broken, requested as

at the prison today to convey fraternal greetings to Lord Mayor MacSwiney.

work, was shattered, and the stones

## LIST OF THOSE KILLED IN BLAST

All of Victims of Explosion in Wall Street Financial District Reside in New York City and Vicinity

New York, Sept. 16.—The complete list of dead in today's explosion follows:

William T. Joyce, clerk of J. P. Morgan and Company.

Jerome H. McKean, chauffeur.

Ludolph Porteng, bank teller, 25 McCauley avenue, Jamaica, N. Y.

Colonel Charles Neville, U. S. A., 44 West 44th street, New York city.

Alfred Mayer, 511 West 138th street, New York city.

Mildred Alexander, 46 Commerce street, New York city.

E. A. Sweet, address unknown.

Mr. McArthur, address unknown.

Mr. Ellsworth, 1238 Gerard street, Brooklyn.

An unidentified woman, 55 years old, Volunteer hospital.

A man about 40, 5 feet 10, brown hair, at Volunteer hospital.

A man thought to be G. B. Barnes or Joseph C. Cranberry.

Robert Westday, 16, messenger boy, 232 West 24th street, New York city.

Bernard J. Kennedy, 30, messenger employed at 115 Broad street.

Miss Carolyn N. Dickinson, 40, Elmhurst, L. I.

Colin B. McClure, 25, Yonkers, N. Y.

Miss Margaret Drury, 28, stenographer, Brooklyn.

Charles Lindroth, about 25, employed at 25 Broad street, address unknown.

William Furman Hutchinson, about 30, insurance broker, Garden City, N. Y.

John Johnson, 55, porter, employed at Bank of America, 44 Wall street.

Joseph Schmitt, 30, clerk, Second street, Bay Side, N. Y.

Joseph Aubrey, 27, married, 18 Sherman avenue, New York city.

Raymond Miller, address unknown.

Louis H. Smith, New York.

L. L. Roberts, 230 Fort Washington avenue, Brooklyn.

Thomas Osprey, 18, 136 Chester avenue, Brooklyn.

Bartholomew Flannery, 310 West 145th street, New York.

Reginald Ellsworth, West Orange, N. J.

Joseph Aresberg, 521 Pacific street, Brooklyn.

Alexander Leitch, 537 West 56th street, New York.

**"POP" GEERS INJURED  
WHEN THROWN TO TRACK**

Syracuse, Sept. 15.—Edward F. (Pop) Geers was injured here this afternoon when he was thrown from his sulky in the third heat of the 2:07 trot at the grand circuit races. He drove Wilki Wilki to finish in second place and just as the horse crossed the finish it stumbled and fell, throwing Geers heavily to the track. His condition is said not to be serious.

**ONE DEAD, 20 HURT  
AS TROLLEY CRASHES**

Cornell Football Players Among  
Passengers in Street Car  
When It Runs Away

Ithaca, Sept. 16.—One man was killed and 20 persons injured, three perhaps fatally, when a runaway street car, heavily loaded with passengers, many of whom were members of the Cornell football squad on their way to practice this afternoon, crashed into a tree after running downhill for four blocks.

The dead man is J. O. Berger of Springville, N. Y. One of the most seriously injured is A. G. Nasek of Cleveland, a candidate for the Cornell football eleven. His injuries are internal. The other two whose injuries the physicians say may be fatal are Mr. Berger's wife, who has severe spinal injuries, and Mrs. Marie Moore, of that city, whose skull was broken when she jumped.

The car got out of control as it was ascending the steep Eddy street grade, and had just reached the Eddy street, end received 3,755 votes. Augustus Rosenzweig, fusion candidate, received 2,222. Last November, the vote was: Claessens, 6,121; fusion candidate, 5,000.

The vote in the five districts where the ousted assemblymen ran was light compared with that when they were chosen at the general election last November in the eighth district, New York county. Louis Waldman, Socialist, ran third in a three-cornered contest.

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At another special election in the nineteenth district of Kings county, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Assemblyman John Damico, Republican, Nat Rubin, Socialist candidate, ran third in a three-cornered contest.

At another special election in the eighteenth district of New York county, received 3,755 votes. Augustus Rosenzweig, fusion candidate, received 2,222. Last November, the vote was: Claessens, 6,121; fusion candidate, 5,000.

Samuel A. Dewitt, re-elected in the eighteenth district of New York county, received 3,755 votes. Augustus Rosenzweig, fusion candidate, received 2,222. Last November, the vote was: Claessens, 6,121; fusion candidate, 5,000.

Samuel Orr, running against James J. Collins, fusion candidate in the fourth Bronx district, was re-elected by a vote of 4,171 to 2,662. He received 6,455 votes last November for his Democratic opponent.

Passengers began to jump as soon as the car started its wild run. The motorman, who stuck to his post in a valiant attempt to stop the car, suffered several fractured ribs and a broken leg.

In the twenty-third district of Kings county, Charles Solomon polled 2,815 votes against 1,921 for John Schenck, Democrat. In this district last November, Solomon's vote was 4,374 and his Republican opponent received 3,127.

Benjamin C. Klingmann, Democrat, was elected in the nineteenth district of Kings county, with a vote of 1,658 for his former president, Thomas W. Miller, chief of the party's speakers bureau, said Mr. Taft probably would participate in the campaign during the last two weeks of October, speaking in New York for one week and in other states for a like period.

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